

Las Conchas Fire Update – June 28, 2011 (1800hrs)

- Current fire size is estimated at 60,741 acres, is 0% contained, and fire crews are working to protect structures and contain the fire using burnout methods to prevent the fire from spreading.
- The acting Los Alamos County Administrator issued an evacuation order for the city of Los Alamos, and NM 502 westbound into Los Alamos is now closed to all motorists.
- The Fire is NOT on Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Wind direction is changing but the fire is not heading for LANL currently.
- LANL is closed due to the fire. All laboratory facilities are closed for all activities, and nonessential employees are directed to remain off site.
- EPA OSC Fife is present at the State EOC and START resources (8 personnel) are ready to locate medium volume air samplers, counters, SAM, Model 19's, once siting decisions are determined.
- Placement of the approximately 30 air samplers/monitors is being developed by the State as well as DOE. The placement will be based on 'down-winders'. Down-winders are loosely described as individuals, organizations, and communities who have strong interests in the operations and safety at the LANL. This does include neighboring tribes. It also includes communities represented by activists in the area who have been the most vocal about the LANL.
- Radiological Emergency Response Team (ORIA-LV) ETA on site is Wednesday, June 29, at noon. EPA, via regional and ORIA-LV will be deploying approximately 24 additional stations. The locations are being coordinated with State and DOE. Tribal coordination is imperative and the local DOE reps are in the process of coordination.
- LANL has 60 sampling and monitoring stations already established for normal operations. These are on the LANL property as well as off-site. A Radiological Assistance Program Team is deploying a limited number of additional stations.
- ASPECT is prepping to fly. The plane is currently in Las Vegas, NV. Flight plans are being developed for verification by the environmental operations in the State EOC. Original flight to get a "smokey" background. Fly-over routes have been proposed by ASPECT and are currently being reviewed by knowledgeable representatives from the State and DOE. Additionally, routes will have to be cleared with FAA, and with LANL to avoid secure and sensitive areas.